**The apostle Paul’s “charge”, or commandment to the church in Thessalonica was to have his first letter to them, which we call I Thessalonians, read in public for all of the disciples to hear (I Thessalonians 5:27). While we don’t know who delivered the first letter, apparently the same person returned with a report to Paul about how it was received and what had been happening at the church. This report prompted Paul to write another letter, which we call II Thessalonians.**

**There are several reasons why this second letter needed to be written:**

* **Paul had revealed a “mystery” concerning the return of Jesus Christ in the first letter. The Thessalonians wanted to know more.**
* **There had been some false teaching about the return of Jesus that had created confusion in the church, and Paul wanted to correct their understanding.**
* **There was ongoing persecution of the church, and Paul wanted to encourage the saints to patiently endure it without becoming bitter or vengeful.**

**This second letter is brief and specific. Even so, it is important in that it reveals even more of the picture of the events surrounding the return of Jesus. In Chapter 2, Paul describes a great “falling away” (Greek apostasia) from the truth, before the appearance of the “man of sin”, whom the apostle John calls the Antichrist (I John 2:18).**

**Paul devotes the last chapter of this second letter to the edification (building up) of the Thessalonian church through instructions for living, warnings about false teaching, and other matters of church discipline.**

1. **Read II Thessalonians 1:1-2. Who joined Paul in his greeting to the church of the Thessalonians? (v.1) Answer:**
2. **“Silvanus” is another name for . (v.1)**
3. **What two spiritual blessings does Paul bestow upon the church? (v. 2) How important would these blessings be to the Thessalonians at that time?**
4. **Read verses 3-10. In the King James version, this passage makes up a single sentence! There is no period from the start of verse 3 to the end of verse 10. For what TWO reasons did Paul and his fellow workers continually give thanks to God for the Thessalonian church? (v. 3) Answer: Paul gave thanks because their was growing “exceedingly” and their for each other was abounding.**
5. **What was going on in the church in Thessalonica, and how were they coping with it? (v. 4)**
6. **What is a special privilege of those who suffer persecution or trouble for the name of Jesus? (v. 5) Answer: They will be counted (or considered to be) of the kingdom of God”. (See also Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 8:16-18; Hebrews 11:24-26; I Peter 1:6-9)**
7. **Who “pays back” those people who persecute the church? (v.6) (See also Isaiah 59:16-18; I Thessalonians 4:6; Jude 1:14-15; Revelation 16:4-7)**
8. **When will the persecution of the church finally end? (v.7) Answer: The saints will be free and at rest when the shall be from heaven. This is called the return or Second Advent of the Lord.**
9. **Who will accompany our Lord when he appears? (v. 7) See Matthew 26:51-53**
10. **What “weapon” will be used, and on what TWO groups of people? (v.8) Answer: The Lord will use . See Genesis 9:8-17; Isaiah 34:1-10; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; II Peter 31-10**
11. **How long will this punishment last? (v. 9) See Daniel 12:1-2; Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:10-15**
12. **In contrast to those who reject the Lord, what will happen to those who love, accept, and receive Him? (v. 10) Hint: see Daniel 12:3; Matthew 25:31-40; Revelation 19:1-6**
13. **Read verses 11-12. How often was Paul (and his fellow workers) praying for the church? What THREE requests did Paul make for the Thessalonian saints? (v.11)**
14. **What is the highest goal of all that we do in the church? (v.12) See also Matthew 5:16; John 15:1-8; Romans 15:5-6; Colossians 3:17**

**Conclusion**

**The church in Thessalonica was under attack. It faced resistance and violent hostility from those on the outside who rejected the preaching of the Gospel. It also was being attacked from the inside by false teachers. Paul’s second letter addressed both of these threats to their faith. In this first chapter, he reminded them that God knew that they were suffering. The Lord would personally take vengeance on those who were attacking them, if not now, then certainly when He returned. The destruction of those enemies of Christ would be both fiery and everlasting.**

**On the other hand, the patient endurance of the Thessalonian saints would be rewarded; there is a special blessing in store for those who have suffered injury or loss in the name of Jesus, because it reflects the character of Christ and brings glory to God.**

**In Chapter 2 of this brief letter, Paul provides more details as to the coming of the Lord. Some were thinking that it would be soon – so soon that some of them had even quit working! Paul would remind them of what he had first taught, and give them some additional, specific details. He would introduce them to a person – the “man of sin” – and speak to the conditions that would give rise to him – a great “falling away” from the truth.**